

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00457 131215Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----131221Z 027059 /15

O 131142Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5613  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0457

EXDIS

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, TC  
SUBJ: IRANIAN THREATS AGAINST UAE

REF: (A) JIDDA 1187, (B) STATE 032731

1. OTHER THAN WHAT SHAH OF IRAN SAID PUBLICLY IN HIS INTERVIEW ON FRENCH TELEVISION LATE IN JANUARY (TEHRAN'S 908), I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY DIRECT MESSAGE FROM THE GOI TO THE UAE THAN IRAN WOULD CONSIDER ANY INCREASE IN UAE OIL PRODUCTION TO BE THREAT AGAINST IRAN AND GOI COULD NOT PREDICT CONSEQUENCES. WHILE I HAVE NOT MET WITH OIL MINISTER UTAYBA SINCE FEBRUARY 2, I HAVE MET ENOUGH OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE UAEG OFFICIALS IN MEANTIME (E.G. MINISTER DEFENSE, MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTER JUSTICE, SHAIKH ZAYID'S PERSONAL ADVISOR, ETC.) WHEN OPEC ISSUES AND REGIONAL RELATIONS IN GULF WERE DISCUSSED AND WHEN MESSAGE OF THIS KIND WOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION.

2. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT UAEG IS NOT CONCERNED THAT IT MIGHT FIND ITSELF OVERLY EXPOSED POLITICALLY VIS A VIS  
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IRAN WERE IT TO RAISE ITS OIL PRODUCTION BEYOND PREVIOUSLY DECIDED INCREASES PRIOR TO DOHA MEETING (OR ROUGHLY FROM 2 MILLION TO 2.2 MILLION BPD BY END OF 1977). IT IS BASIC UAE POLICY TENET TO HAVE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH ITS TWO LARGER NEIGHBORS, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. UAE DOES NOT HAVE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC POWER TO THUMB ITS NOSE AT SHAH AND RECENTLY IT HAS HAD TO WALK A PRETTY FINE LINE BECAUSE OF ITS

DECISION TO SIDE WITH SAUDIS ON OIL PRICES AT DOHA.

3. MY GUESS IS THAT WHEN OIL MINISTER UTAYBA VISITED RIYADH ON FEBRUARY 6 (ABU DHABI 386), HE DISCUSSED UAE OIL PRODUCTION PLANS WITH THE SAUDIS. HE MAY WELL HAVE SAID TO SAUDIS PRETTY MUCH WHAT HE TOLD ME A FEW DAYS EARLIER, NAMELY THAT THERE WAS SOME NERVOUSNESS AMONG UAE OFFICIALS (SPECIFICALLY FONMIN SUWAIDI) OVER SHAH'S PUBLIC COMPLAINT THAT INCREASE IN SAUDI AND UAE OIL PRODUCTION WOULD BE HOSTILE ACT AGAINST IRAN (SEE PARA 4 OF ABU DHABI 351). IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT UTAYBA MAY HAVE MENTIONED IRAN'S MISCHIF MAKING POTANTIAL IN CERTAIN EMIRATES (SUCH AS DUBAI) WHERE IRANIAN POLITICAL POSITION IS STRONG.  
DICKMAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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